Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 04188 241055Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 ARA-14 EA-12
NEA-10 /117 W
----------035851 241115Z /16
O 240845Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1834
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIAT
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS PRETORIA 4188

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PORG, PDEV, WA
SUBJECT, NAMIBIA; SA PRESS ON WALVIS BAY

FOLLOWING IS A JULY 24 FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE OF THE CITIZEN
WRITTEN BY AIDA PARKER. HEADLINE IS "SA FACES CRISES
ON WALVIS."
BEGIN TEXT: SOUTH AFRICA IS NOW IN A FULL CRISIS -
AND POTENTIAL CONFRONTATION - SITUATION OVER SOUTH WEST
AFRICA.
CONTRARY TO ALL FORMAL GREEMENTS AND GUARANTEES,
THE BIG FIVE WESTERN NATIONS AND THEIR AFRICAN GROUP INTEND
SUPPORTING A FROU-POINT RESOLUTION DEMANDING THE ALMOST IMMEDIATE
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PAGE 02 PRETOR 04188 241055Z

INCORPORATION OF WALVIS BAY INTO AN INDEPENDENT NAMIBIA.
ACCORDING TO INFORMATION GIVEN TO ME BY TOP-LEVEL
UNITED NATIONS SOURCES IN NEW YORK LAST NIGHT, THE
RESOLUTION TO BE PLACED BEFORE THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL DECLARES:
NO 1 -"THAT THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND UNITY
OF NAMIBIA MUST BE ASSURED THROUGH THE RE-INTEGRATION
OF WALVIS BAY WITHIN ITS TERRITORY."

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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NO 2 -THAT THE SECURITY COUNCIL "DECIDES TO LEND ITS
FULL SUPPORT AND INITIATION OF STEPS NECESSARY TO ENSURE
EARLY RE-INTEGRATION OF WALVIS BAY INTO NAMIBIA."
NO 3 - THAT "PENDING THE ATTAINMENT OF THIS OBJECTIVE,
SOUTH AFRICA MUST NOT USE WALVIS BAY IN ANY MANNER
PREJUDICIAL TO THE INDEPENDENCE OF NAMIBIA OR THE VIABILITY
OF ITS ECONOMY."
NO 4 - THAT THE SECURITY COUNCIL "DECIDES TO REMAIN
SEIZED OF THE MATTER UNTIL WALVIS BAY IS FULLY REINTEGRATED
INTO NAMIBIA."
MY SOURCES IN NEW YORK ARE ADAMANT THAT THERE IS NO
DAOUBT THAT THE WESTERN POWERS AND THE AFRICAN GROUP WILL
SUPPORT THE RESOLUTION. TO BECOME BINDING, A NINE-NATION
VOTE IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL IS NECESSARY. "THEY WILL GET
THAT, HANDS DOWN," I WAS TOLD.
ALTHOUGH IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO GAIN ANY OFFICIAL
COMMENT IN PRETORIA LAST NIGHT, I UNDERSTAND THAT NEWS
OF THIS DEVELOPMENT WAS MET WITH THE GREATEST CONSTERNATION.
MY INFORMATION IS THAT AFTER EMERGENCY WEEKEND
MEETINGS, THE PRIME MINISTER, MR. JOHN VORSTER SENT
STRONGLY-WORDED NOTES TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF ALL FIVE
WESTERN "CONTACT" NATIONS - THE U.S., BRITAIN, FRANCE,
WEST GERMANY AND CANADA.
CALLS TO PARIS, LONDON AND WASHINGTON FAILED TO
DISCLOSE THE CONTENTS OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE, BUT
IT CAN SAFELY BE ASSUMED THAT IT DEALT WITH THE NEW
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DEVELOPMENT OVER WALVIS BAY.
I ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS, MR. PIK BOTHA, WAS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE FOR NEW
YORK SOMETIME DURING THE WEEKEND BUT THAT HIS VISIT
WAS CANCELLED IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT
WAS INFORMED OF THE NEW DEVELOPMENT. MR. BOTHA WOULD
HAVE LED THE SOUTH AFRICAN DELEGATION TO THE SECURITY
COUNCIL.
NO REASON HAS BEEN GIVEN FOR THE ABRUPT CANCELLATION
OF MR. BOTHA'S TRAVEL ARRANGMENTS BUT, AGAIN, IT MUST BE
ASSUMED THAT IT RESULTED FROM THE SUDDEN WEEKEND WALVIS BAY
CRISIS.
WHILE ALL MEMBERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS REMAINED TIGHTLIPPED
OVER THE SHOCK DEVELOPMENT, ONE OF SOUTH AFRICA'S
FOREMOST CONSTITUTIONAL EXPERTS TOLD ME: "SOUTH AFRICA'S
STANDPOINT ON WALVIS BAY IS VERY WELL KNOWN. WE HAVE MADE
IT ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THROUGHOUT THE NEGOTIATIONS TOWARDS
AN INDEPENDENT NAMIBIA THAT WE WERE NOT PREPARED TO DISCUSS
WALVIS BAY AS PART OF THE PACKAGE.
"FOR THE WESTERN NATIONS TO NOW TURN BACK ON THE
AGREED PREMISES MEANS THAT SOUTH AFRICA HAS REACHED THE
END OF THE ROAD."

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

"IF THEY ARE GOING TO INTRODUCE THIS RESOLUTION - AND IT SEEMS THAT THIS IS INEVITABLE - KNOWING THAT IT IS TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE TO SOUTH AFRICA, THEN WE HAVE REACHED A CONFRONTATION SITUATION, WITH ALL THE CONSEQUENCES THAT MIGHT ARISE OUT OF THAT.

"IT IS A DANGEROUS SITUATION. UNLIKE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IF THE SECURITY COUNCIL VOTES FOR SUCH A RESOLUTION, IT CAN BE ENFORECED.

"BUT SOUTH AFRICA CANNOT ALLOW ITSELF TO BE FORCED INTO A SITUATION DIRECTLY CONTRARY TO THE AGREEMENTS DRAWN AND TO THE ASSURANCES GIVEN. SOUTY AFRICA HAS BEEN ASSURED OVER AND OVER BY WEST THAT WALVIS BAY DID NOT FORM PART OF THE PROPOSALS.

"SOUTH AFRICA ACCEPTED THE WESTERN PROPOSALS ON THOSE

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TERMS. THIS COUNTRY HAS PLAYED THE GAME 100 PERCENT, HAS STOOD BY ITS WORD. BUT, IT SEEMS, IT WAS NEGOTIATING WITH PEOPLE WHO WERE NOT PREPARED TO HONOUR THEIR UNDERTAKINGS. WE HAVE NOW REACHED THE END OF THE ROAD." END TEXT.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation History:
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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To: STATE USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
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